

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAN TH 00346 230400 Z

15

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W
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P 230025 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL CAN THO

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 16

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0346

EXDIS

EO: 11652: ADS DECLAS DECEMBER 21, 1976

TAGS: MOPS, CB, VS

SUBJECT: FANK 32 ND BRIGADE AIRLIFT TO TAKEO RUNS OUT OF GAS

1. THE 44 TH SPECIAL TACTICAL ZONE COMMANDER, COL HOANG DUC NINH, HAS DENIED A KHMER GENERAL STAFF REQUEST FOR FIFTY THOUSAND LITERS OF JP4 AVIATION FUEL. KAF HELICOPTERS HAVE FERRIED ABOUT 550 BRIGADE MEMBERS AND SOME DEPENDENTS TO TAKEO SINCE THE AIRLIFT BEGAN MAY 13. ACCORDING TO 1 ST LT SOCKUN, ACTING COMMANDER OF THE FANK FORCES IN TINH BIEN, THERE REMAIN 450 SOLDIERS AND 700 DEPENDENTS TO BE TRANSPORTED.

2. THE CAMBODIAN GENERAL STAFF DISPATCHED LT COL MEN SAM ENG, A J4 OFFICER FROM PHNOM PENH, TO TINH BIEN WITH AN OFFICIAL FANK REQUEST FOR FUEL. NINH INFORMED ENG THAT HE " HAD NO AUTHORITY" TO ISSUE THE FUEL.

3. COMMENT: THE CONSULATE GENERAL LEARNED FROM G-3 MR IV THAT ARVN JGS MAY 17 ORDERED THAT ALL FUTURE SUPPORT TO THE 32 ND WOULD COME FROM MEDTC AND NO FURTHER ARVN RESOURCES WOULD BE PROVIDED THE FANK BRIGADE. PERHAPS NINH IS STILL OPERATING UNDER THESE INSTRUCTIONS WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN SUPERCEDED BY THE TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. THE CONSULATE GENERAL IS UNAWARE OF THE DETAILS OF THE ARRANGEMENT FOR MEDTC TO SUPPORT THE BRIGADE MOVE. IF THIS INFORMATION CAN BE SUPPLIED WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO EXPLAIN RESUPPLY PROCEDURES TO THE MR IV STAFF. END COMMENT.
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4. ENG AND SOCKUN TOLD CONSULATE GENERAL OFFICERS MAY 21 THAT THE MAJORITY OF REMAINING FANK TROOPS-- UNPAID, EXPOSED TO MONSSON RAINS, AND INSULTED BY THEIR RELUCTANT VIETNAMESE HOSTS-- ARE ANXIOUS TO PROCEED TO TAKEO. LT SOCKUN, PERHAPS INDULGING IN SOLDIERLY BRAVODO, SAID HE WOULD PERSONALLY PREFER TO STAY AND RETAKE PHNOM DEN BUT THAT HIS ORDERS ARE TO LEAVE. THE CHAU DOC VICE CONSUL REPORTS, HOWEVER, THAT A VIET CONG FLAG AND A SIHANOUK ROYAL BANNER HAVE APPEARED ON PHNOM DEN' S HILLSIDES.
BARNES

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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